

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1

COUNTRY Rumania
SUBJECT Oil in Moldova Region

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 14 May 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

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1. After the general nationalization in 1948 Rumania was divided into two oil regions: Muntenia (at Ploesti) with administrative head offices in the building of the former Astra Romana Company in Bucharest; and Moldova (at Moinești) with administrative head offices in the building of the former Steaua Romana Company in Bucharest.
2. Before 1948 two large companies, Steaua Romana and Moldonafta, and two small companies, Petrol Tazlau and Intreprinderia Rosetti Tascanu, operated in the Moldova fields.
3. Steaua Romana had wells at Moinești with a daily capacity of 80 tons, Zemes with a daily capacity of 120 tons, and Solont with a daily capacity of 20 tons. The company also had a refinery with a daily capacity of 240 tons at the Moinești railroad station. It used the Bohrmann system to refine and produce light and heavy gasoline, kerosene, solar oil, and fuel oil.
4. Moldonafta had wells at Zemes with a daily capacity of 50 tons and at Stanesti with a daily capacity of 10 tons.
5. Petrol Tazlau had wells at Zemes with a daily capacity of 10 tons, and Rosetti Tascanu had wells at Zemes with a daily capacity of six tons.
6. After 1948 large scale prospecting began in the Moldova fields, reportedly because the output of the Muntenia fields were rapidly declining. New sites were drilled in accordance with plans prepared by Steaua Romana, which had bought land but had not utilized it. Oil was found, and the output of approximately 2,800 tons daily represented an increase in production of almost 1,000 per cent over that of 1948. Most of the new oil was found at Zemes and Moinești. New wells were drilled on both banks of the Tazlau River. The Tazlau depression has proved rich in oil, and wells in this area reach an output of 60 to 100 tons daily. Protracted boring at Comanesti, Onesti, Slanic, Targu Oana, and Lunca did not meet with success.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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7. Increased oil production required increased facilities for refining, which would not be met by the old refinery at the Moinești railroad station. A new refinery was built and equipped with machinery obtained from dismantling a Muntenia plant. The new refinery is in a strategically favorable location, approximately eight kilometers from the Valea Uzului station toward the Carpathian Mountains. It has a maximum daily capacity of 3,000 tons, but this can be increased if necessary.
8. The new refinery produces aviation gasoline, light and heavy gasoline, kerosene, solar oil and fuel oil. It does not make paraffin because it does not have the necessary equipment, nor does it make fuel oil because the local crude contains too high a percentage of paraffin.
9. The Moldova crude furnishes the following composition: four per cent for aviation gasoline, six per cent for light and heavy gasoline, 18 per cent for kerosene, 22 per cent for solar oil, and 48 per cent for fuel oil.
10. In 1949 and 1950 two pipe lines, 10 and 12 inches respectively, were laid from Zemes through Moinești and Comanesti to Valea Uzului. The lines were laid approximately one and one-half meters underground, parallel to the railroad and two meters distant.
11. The increased oil production in Moldova between 1948 and the end of 1951 caused the population of Moinești to increase from 5,000 to 30,000 inhabitants.

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